

(2) In the case of death, incompetence or disappearance of an eligible orchardist, successors may be eligible to receive TAP payments as specified in part 707 of this chapter.

#### § 783.5 Application.

(a) A complete application for TAP benefits and related supporting documentation must be submitted to the county office prior to the deadline FSA announces.

(b) A complete application includes all of the following:

- (1) A form provided by FSA;
- (2) A written estimate of the number of trees, bushes or vines lost or damaged which is prepared by the owner or someone who is a qualified expert, as determined by the county committee;
- (3) The number of acres on which the loss was suffered; and
- (4) Sufficient evidence of the loss to allow the county committee to calculate whether an eligible loss occurred.

(c) Before requests will be approved, the county committee:

- (1) Must make recommendations and an eligibility determination based on a complete application on those requests that it wants to refer to a higher approval official.
- (2) Must verify actual qualifying losses and the number of acres involved by on-site visual inspection of the land and trees, bushes or vines.
- (3) May request additional information and may consider all relevant information in making its determination, including its members own knowledge about the applicant's normal operations.

#### § 783.6 Benefits.

(a) Subject to the availability of TAP funds, an approved eligible orchardist shall be reimbursed in an amount not to exceed 75 percent of the eligible costs for the qualifying loss (that loss over and above the calculated 15% mortality). The payment shall be the lesser of the 75% of actual costs for the replanting or the amount calculated using rates established by the State committee (not to exceed the maximum amount the Deputy Administrator establishes). The costs permitted shall only be approved for:

(1) Seedlings or cuttings, for tree, bush or vine replanting;

(2) Site preparation and debris handling within normal cultural practices for the type of individual stand being re-established and necessary to ensure successful plant survival;

(3) Chemicals and nutrients necessary for successful establishment;

(4) Labor to plant seedlings or cuttings as determined reasonable by the county committee; and

(5) Labor used to transplant existing seedlings established through natural regeneration into a productive tree stand.

(b) Costs for fencing, irrigation, irrigation equipment, protection of seedlings from wildlife, general improvements, re-establishing structures, windscreens and other costs as determined by the Deputy Administrator are not eligible for reimbursement benefits.

(c) When lost stands are replanted, the types planted may be different than those originally planted if the new types have the same general end use, as the county committee determines and approves. Payments will be based on the lesser of rates established to plant the types actually lost or the cost to establish the alternative used. If the species of plantings, seedlings or cuttings differs significantly from the species lost then, except as the county committee determines, the costs may not be reimbursed.

(d) Eligible orchardists may elect not to replant the entire eligible stand. If so, the county committee shall calculate payment based on the number of qualifying trees, bushes or vines actually replanted.

(e) The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines for which a person may receive assistance at any time under this part shall not exceed 500 acres.

(f) The cumulative amount of TAP benefits which any person, as defined in accordance with part 1400 of this title, may receive under this part shall not exceed \$75,000.

(g) In the event the total amount of claims submitted under this part during a sign-up period exceeds the applicable funds available for such period, such payments shall be reduced by a